

# Trees on Maine Street

∞ The Project Canopy Bulletin ∞



May/June 2012

*"I am the Lorax, I speak for the trees, for the trees have no tongues."*

## "Herbie's Hero", Frank Knight, noted Maine Forester and Tree Warden, dies at 103

Frank Knight, 103, of Yarmouth, passed away on Monday. Born in Pownal, Maine in 1908, he took his first job at age 12 cutting wood (he was paid \$144 for 12 cords hauled to mill on a horse drawn sled), Knight was a pulp wood dealer with a forestry degree from UMaine when he was tapped to serve as volunteer tree warden for Yarmouth in 1956. Dutch elm disease already had ravaged thousands of elms in the Midwest, and the fungus was moving Yarmouth's way.

Two years later, Frank removed Yarmouth's first diseased elm. Many more followed. DDT protected the bulk of the trees while in use, but once banned, the beetle borne fungus moved rapidly through town. Knight sacrificed each infected elm, sometimes as many as 100 a year, in order to save the healthy. Fewer than 20 elms remain today.

One elm however, Knight could not bear to cut down. The massive elm at the corner of East Main Street and Yankee drive had the disease, but Frank was so smitten with the tree, he spent the next 50 years nursing the tree to health.

"As the guardian of the fabled elm, 'Herbie,' and a prominent Maine forester, Frank Knight had a long association with the Maine Forest Service and Project Canopy, our urban forestry program, under the Maine Department of Conservation," said Conservation Commissioner Bill Beardsley.

"The Maine Forest Service is grateful for Frank Knight's decades of service to the forestry community, especially to the trees and people of Yarmouth," said Doug Denico, Maine Forest Service director. "His passion and caring for the trees of Yarmouth inspired everyone he knew

to appreciate the simple beauty of trees in our communities."

"It has been an honor and a joy to work with Frank and call him a friend over the last 12 years, said Jan Ames Santerre, Project Canopy director. "I will never forget my first meeting with him, touring the town's trees.

"Yarmouth has many magnificent elms, a line of unusual and large oak trees that grace the front lawn of the library, and many others that Frank planted and cared for," Santerre recalled. "He saved the best for last on that day. While driving to view 'Herbie,' he paused at some distance to observe the splendid and graceful tree, remarking 'Isn't he beautiful?' Frank's passion for the town, its trees, and his kind and gentle manner was an inspiration to all those that knew him."

Knight served the Town of Yarmouth as tree warden for more than 50 years. Because of his devotion to the community and its trees, the Maine Forest Service named the annual excellence in community forestry award for Frank Knight.

The Maine forester will be remembered at this year's annual Arbor Week awards ceremony at 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, at the Longfellow Elementary School in Portland. During the ceremony, Knight's work and the work of other volunteers will be honored.

In 2010, 'Herbie' lost the battle and was cut down. "It's been a beautiful tree. I'm sorry to see it go. But nothing is forever," Knight said. "It's pretty near my turn. And it's just a fact of life that life is going to end. And that's for people, for trees, for everything. I thank the good Lord every day that we had him in his glory and beauty for so long."

### PROJECT CANOPY

assists communities and nonprofit, grassroots organizations in building self-sustaining urban and community forestry programs with strong local support.

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*"Good timber does not grow with ease; the stronger the wind, the stronger the trees."*

*- J. Willard Marriott*

## News and Updates

### Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Found on Mount Desert Island

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is an introduced, aphid-like insect from Asia that kills Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). HWA affects all species of hemlock, but does not affect pine, spruce, fir or other conifers.

Look for These Signs on Hemlocks:

- Immobile, white woolly masses at the base of needles on undersides of hemlock twigs
- Off-color needles, often with a grayish cast
- Premature needle drop and twig dieback

Do not fertilize the trees (adelgids thrive on the nitrogen enrichment provided by fertilizer, much like aphids). Remove birdfeeders in the spring and summer (April through August) to reduce the number of birds drawn to your trees. Birds can transport HWA short and long distances. Monitor your trees regularly for signs of the insect: Discrete white cotton ball-like masses on the undersides of the twigs, usually attached at the bases of needles. Usually up to 1/8th" diameter. Try to look twice a year; in late March (eggs present so wool is at its fluffiest) and early November (on new growth, settled nymphs will have just started to feed and develop their waxy coating, remnants of old wool may still be visible). HWA has been detected in 5 new towns in 2012, most recently Topsham., bringing the total number of towns in Maine with HWA infestations to 35. If you think you have HWA, notes its location and call the Maine Forest Service toll-free at 1-800-367-0223.

**Do you have questions about your woodlot, tax credits, invasive pests or vernal pools?** Check out the wealth of information in the fact sheets posted on the Maine Forest Service's website! 4 new sheets just added on white pine "Pinus strobus". <http://www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/fpm/facts.htm>

**Grant Opportunities from Patagonia:** <http://www.patagonia.com/us/patagonia.go?assetid=2942>

### The Search Continues for Emerald Ash Borer

Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) - The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a small invasive beetle from Asia that has destroyed millions of ash trees since being discovered in the U.S. in 2002. It has been found in 15 states, as well as in parts of Ontario and Quebec, Canada. EAB has NOT yet been found in Maine. The closest infestations are in Montreal, Quebec, Canada and Albany County, NY.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA APHIS) has funded a trapping survey to help detect EAB in areas where it may be present but difficult to detect with the human eye. The Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Agriculture and Penobscot Indian Nation are cooperating with the USDA to hang 955 traps across the State of Maine (for more information, see [www.maineforestservice.gov/purpletraps.htm](http://www.maineforestservice.gov/purpletraps.htm)).

Extensive research has gone into developing a trap and lure combination to aid in early detection. The purple traps are made of corrugated plastic and fold into a prism shape. A lure, which is a combination of manuka oil and a leaf-blend compound, is hung inside the trap. The outside surface is covered with sticky glue. The trap is hung in the canopy of ash trees. The color and scent of the trap will attract flying adult emerald ash borers that will then get stuck in the glue.

The purple traps are non-toxic and pose no risk to humans, pets, or wildlife. However, the glue on the outside of the trap is extremely sticky and messy. Please do not handle them. If you see a purple trap on the ground in Maine, please call the MFS toll-free number: 1-800-367-0223.

-shared from [FOREST & SHADE TREE - INSECT & DISEASE CONDITIONS FOR MAINE April 18, 2012](#)





*"Trees are the best monuments that a man can erect to his own memory. They speak his praises without flattery, and they are blessings to children yet unborn." - Lord Orrery, 1749*

### ***Malus floribunda*, Japanese Flowering Crabapple**



This is one of the best Crabapples for form and flower, reaching 15 to 25 feet in height and creating a broad, rounded, densely-branched canopy. It is also disease

resistant, an important attribute for crabapples. The profusion of fragrant, 1 to 1.5-inch diameter blooms begin as beautiful deep pink to red buds, eventually fading to a glistening white as they open. From August to October, the yellow and red fruits appear, providing a popular food for wildlife or they can be harvested to make a delicious jelly. They can create a litter problem on hard surface beneath the canopy. Japanese Flowering Crabapple requires very little pruning but any that is needed should be completed before late spring, to ensure dormant flower buds are not removed. Trees used as street trees should be trained to develop a central trunk and should be occasionally thinned to eliminate water sprouts or crossed-branches, and to open up the crown. This allows for better air circulation through the crown and helps reduce disease.

Crabapples are also useful as median trees where the fruit will fall away from pedestrians. Placed in the lawn area as an accent so they receive occasional irrigation, Crabapple will give you years of wonderful flowers and showy fruit. It is best to locate them away from a patio or other hard surface so the fruits will not fall and cause a mess. Set it back just far enough so the crown will not overhang the walk, but close enough so the flowers and fruit can be enjoyed. Japanese Flowering Crabapple grows in moist, well-drained, acid soil in full sun locations for best flowering. They are not recommended for sandy soil due to their inability to tolerate drought, but any other soil is suitable, including clay.

### **Maine Downtown Center announces Project Canopy grant recipients**

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Downtown Center (MDC) and the Maine Forest Service's Project Canopy program are pleased to announce that five MDC communities are receiving grants for tree planting projects in their downtowns. The MDC and Project Canopy funds require a local match and support local efforts. Grants are being awarded to the City of Saco for elm trees and Japanese lilacs along the Route 1 business district; to Norway Downtown for additional trees in downtown; to the City of Belfast for red maples as part of the City's Harbor Walk project; and to the City of Bath for a total of 45 trees in eight separate planting projects throughout the downtown. Other grant applications are still pending review.

The recipients were announced to a record number of attendees at MDC's Downtown Institute session "Green Design, Good Design: Historic Preservation and Smart Energy Solutions." MDC received a \$50,000 grant from the Environmental Funders Network's Quality of Place Initiative to support its Green Downtowns program, now in its third year. The Green Downtowns program was created to strengthen the link between the natural and built environments in Maine's downtowns, making them more environmentally friendly and ecologically conscious and building local leadership and capacity to support sustainable green initiatives.

EFN's collaborative funding initiative, "From Vision to Action: A Commitment to Maine's Quality of Place" seeks to support projects that strengthen the link between the natural and built environments, emphasize public engagement, and take seriously the process and action elements required to build and sustain collaborations.

A collaboration between the Maine Forest Service and GrowSmart Maine, Project Canopy is Maine's urban and community forestry program. Project Canopy's mission is to create and maintain healthy urban and community forests for the economic, ecological, and quality of life benefits for Mainers. Project Canopy works to keep Maine's communities green and livable by working with municipalities and non-profits to help manage public tree resources. Through its grant program and technical assistance, Project Canopy promotes planting and maintaining of trees in Maine communities. Through projects such as supporting planting street trees downtown or a management plan development for town forests, Project Canopy works to help Maine communities stay leafy and green.

*"A man does not plant a tree for himself, he plants it for posterity."  
- Alexander Smith*

Find us on the web at [projectcanopy.maine.gov](http://projectcanopy.maine.gov), on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProjectCanopy](https://facebook.com/ProjectCanopy) or on twitter [@ProjectCanopy](https://twitter.com/ProjectCanopy)



## Community Wrap-up

### Kittery students help plant trees at new community center

By Deborah McDermott, April 24, 2012 3:59 PM

KITTERY, Maine — The future was very much on the minds of people from youngsters to seniors Tuesday as 20 “Autumn Blaze” maple trees were planted in front of the Kittery Community Center.

The saplings were covered with dirt shoveled by students from Mitchell and Shapleigh schools and Traip Academy - the town's three schools - as well as by town and school officials. The trees line either side of a sidewalk leading up to the center, which will house the Recreation Department, Head Start preschool and the town's first-ever senior center.

Adults in attendance said that as the children ride their bikes to the center in years to come, they will pass right under the trees they helped plant.

And the kids appeared happy to be involved — not just because they got to leave school on a beautiful afternoon but because for many of them, this tree planting is important.

Among the students were Shapleigh Middle School seventh-graders Max Smith, Jasmine Clark, Daria Brown, Trevor Salema, Matt Kashmer, Cam Pehowic and Kyle Hope, who form “Mr. Gunter's community service” — students who care for their school grounds, under the leadership of teacher Mark Gunter.

“We try to keep everything clean outdoors,” Max said. “We rake up leaves, snap dead buds, things like that.” Max says he got involved because he loves working outside. “I'm a hands-on person,” he said.

Jasmine and Daria said the students just completed building raised beds and they recently planted seedlings in the school's greenhouse.

The younger children from Mitchell Primary School said they appreciated what they were doing.

“I really like planting. I plant a lot at home with my mom,” said Emerson Bouffard.

Traip junior Jacob Goss said, “When I heard they were doing this, I wanted to be involved. I try to do anything for the environment, and I like how they chose the kind of trees. Red maples symbolize Maine.”

Most of the funding for the maples came from a \$8,000 grant awarded by the state's Maine Forest Service Project Canopy program. Program Director Jan Santerre said that while 90 percent of the state is forested, many towns and cities have sparse tree coverage.

“In a community landscape, the canopy cover isn't as extensive,” she said, which is why the Project Canopy program was created.

### To read the latest Forests for Maine's Future Newsletter

<http://www.forestformainesfuture.org/new-from-the-woods/>



Not only will the trees provide shade and improve air quality, they also improve water quality, she said. “They have a lot of value — more than just being pretty,” she said.

The trees are intended to create a vista for people as they see the community center, the former Frisbee School, from Rogers Road.

“They will frame the building and enhance the site for outdoor community activities like concerts, festivals, farmers markets and other events,” said Chris Perkins, chair of the Frisbee Revitalization Building Committee.

The community center will open in May and will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 19

- Reprinted from [seacoastonline.com](http://seacoastonline.com)

### 5th Annual Active Communities Conference Walking, Biking, Physical Activity

May 31, 2012 at the USM Abromson Conference Center in Portland, Maine

Be our guest at the 5th annual Maine Active Communities Conference, an exploration in what an Active Community Environment (ACE) is and how you can transform your community for better health, better transportation, and even a better economy.

Join Project Canopy, GrowSmart Maine and Portland City Arborist Jeff Tarling for a fun and informative walk through the Forest City's Deering Oaks Park.

Sign up today!

[REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!](#)

### Calendar

#### May

17 Invasive Plants of Midcoast Maine, 6:30-8pm, Rockport Opera House. 596-2040 [info@knox-lincoln.org](mailto:info@knox-lincoln.org).

19 Tree Pruning Workshop, 10am, Thomaston Village Cemetery. Pete Lammert 354-8000 or 691-2900

21-27 Maine Arbor Week

22 Arbor Day Ceremony and Tree Planting, Longfellow School, Portland

24 Early Commercial Thinning Site Visit. 12 pm, Summit Township. Bennet Leon, [bennet.leon@maine.edu](mailto:bennet.leon@maine.edu)

#### June

5 Planning for a Successful Timber Harvest, 9am. [rebecca@knox-lincoln.org](mailto:rebecca@knox-lincoln.org) or (207) 596-2040

*"The world's favorite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."  
- Edwin Way Teale*

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